Over Flow of Mundeswari River

3074. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the over flow of Mundeswari river water of Hoogly district and due to non-excavation or dredging of silted low Damodar Basin in Howrah district almost every year thousands of hectares of agricultural land for cultivation get submerged causing miseries to thousands of marooned people;

(b) if so, the comprehensive proposal in consultation with State Government the Union Government are contemplating in Ninth Plan period to save Howrah district from flood; and

(c) the amount spent by West Bengal Government during Eighth Plan Period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mundeswari channel of the Damodar river overflows during the flood season causing damages in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah. The flooding is not mainly because of non-excavattion or dredging of silted bed of the Damodar basin, but due to combination of other factors as well. Flooding on the right bank lower down takes place because the area is not protected by the embankment in its entire length. Further more the areas being low, drainage congestion persists for a long period once these are flooded during the flood season. The high tides of river Hooghly may also effect the drainage of the Damodar river and cause drainage congestion in the lower basin.

(b) Planning Commission have cleared a scheme for this area namely "Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme in the districts of Hoogly and Howrah in June, 1989, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1440 lakhs." The State Government is required to make necessary budget provision acquire the land and proceed with the scheme. This scheme envisages construction of embankments besides deepening of river Rupnarayan near Punsuli for a length of 3.5 Km. On completion of this scheme, the area would get much needed relief from recurring floods. Ganga Flood Control Commission has also prepared a Comprehensive Plan for flood control for Damodar River System and sent to State Government for Necessary follow up action on the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan.

(c) As per Draft Annual Plan (1997-98) the amount spent by West Bengal Government on the above mentioned scheme during VIII Plan Period is Rs. 110.03 lakhs and there is a provisioon of Rs. 136.00 lakhs for the year 1997-98.

Vocational Education

3075. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce vocational education in each and every secondary school in view of unusual increase of unemployment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the steps proposed to be taken to introduce it in rural secondary schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education with the primary objective of enhancing individual employability is being implemented through the State Governments/UTs at +2 level in the school system. The vocational education programme is expanded in new schools in both urban and rural areas on the basis of the proposals received each year from State Governments/UTs.

Sick Private Airlines

3076. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the sick private airlines for which Ministry is trying to secure funds;

(b) whether these airlines have defaulted in payments to the Public Sector Undertakings like Oil Companies, the Air Port Authority of India and the Customs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; airlines-wise and credit-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the concerned Ministries to recover the above arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Out of the 7 private scheduled airlines the following 4 are not operating at present.

1. M/s East West Airlines
2. M/s Modiluft
3. M/s NEPC Airlines
4. M/s. Skyline-NEPC

A committee has been set up on 25th June 1997 to examine and make recommendations on the reasons for